

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15242

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: BGEN, UR, CASC
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST- DISCUSSION AT MOSCOW

ICC SESSION

SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)
PRESIDENT MACGREGOR, U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVES RAISED CRAWFORD ARREST CASE WITH
SOVIET HOSTS DURING JUNE 26-28 ICC SESSION IN MOSCOW.
SOVIETS STUCK TO LINE THAT CRAWFORD IS GUILTY AND
REFERRED TO "GREAT FLOOD OF DOLLARS" IN MOSCOW WITH
WHICH THEY SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO ASSOCIATE HIM.

1. ON JUNE 28, ICC ADVISOR ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(AND FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS) WILLIS ARMSTRONG BRIEFED AMBASSADOR ON
ACTION TAKEN DURING ICC SESSION TO SUPPORT ARRESTED
U.S. BUSINESSMAN F.JAY CRAWFORD. (ARMSTRONG HAD
DISCUSSED INTENDED TACTICS WITH E/C COUNSELOR ON
JUNE 25, PRIOR TO FIRST MEETINGS WITH SOVIETS.)

2. ARMSTRONG SAID HE FIRST PUT SOVIETS ON NOTICE
OF U.S. CONCERN BY RAISING SUBJECT AT ICC GROUP
DINNER JUNE 25 WHICH HE KNEW WOULD BE MONITORED BY
SOVIET LISTENING DEVICES. HE HAD SUPPORT FROM ICC
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PRESIDENT IAN MACGREGOR AND FORMER BRITISH AND
SWEDISH AMBASSADORS TO MOSCOW, FRANK ROBERTS AND
GUNNAR JARRING, OVERRIDING IN THE PROCESS THE
OBJECTIONS OF THE SWEDISH SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ICC, WINQWIST, WHO WAS AFRAID TO BROACH ISSUE TO
SOVIETS.

3. ARMSTRONG SAID HE SPOKE TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE SUSHKOV, JUST RETURNED FROM U.S., WHO HAD "REARED BACK" AND CLAIMED CRAWFORD WAS IN VIOLATION OF SOVIET LAW. ARMSTRONG HAD CRITICIZED ROUGH METHODS USED ON CRAWFORD AND NOTED APPREHENSION IN U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

4. ARMSTRONG SAID HE ALSO RAISED ISSUE WITH SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECRETARY GENERAL IVAN GAYDAYENKO, WHO HAD SEEMED PLEASED THAT THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED AND WHO VOICED NO DEFENSE OF SOVIET TACTICS.

5. MACGREGOR ALSO RAISED ISSUE WITH SUSHKOV SEPARATELY. IN THIS CONVERSATION SUSHKOV REFERRED TO A "GREAT FLOOD OF DOLLARS" IN MOSCOW, IMPLYING THAT PERHAPS CRAWFORD MIGHT HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PHENOMENON. (WE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A FLOOD OF DOLLARS AND DO NOT IMAGINE THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD MIND IF ONE EXISTED.) MACGREGOR RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD PRESENTED NO EVIDENCE OF A CRIME, AND NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT ONE HAD OCCURRED.

6. AMBASSADOR TOLD ARMSTRONG THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES BACK
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UP WHAT HE WAS TELLING THE SOVIETS, SINCE THEIR VIEWS WOULD CARRY MORE WEIGHT. ARMSTRONG RESPONDED THAT MACGREGOR HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM A VERY LOW APPRAISAL OF TOP I-H LEADERSHIP IN THIS REGARD.

7. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS DID GET A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESSMEN, THANKS TO THE HELPFUL ATTITUDE OF ARMSTRONG, MACGREGOR, JARRING, ROBERTS AND PERHAPS OTHERS. THE SOVIETS IN TURN SHOWED THEIR DISPLEASURE BY GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO KEEP US AWAY FROM THE SESSION AND THE FOREIGN GUESTS. TOON

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